

REMARKS:

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Barry for the courtesy extended in the telephonic interview of December 31, 2003. During the course of this interview the use of "a second activated sludge process" in element (b) of claim 1 was discussed and the undersigned and Examiner Barry agreed that the use of "a second" does not imply the presence of a first activated sludge process in claim 1, but instead clarifies claim 1 by associating the second activated sludge process with the second stream of influent.

Claim 10 and claim 15 are amended herein by inserting "stream" between "second" and "activated." This amendment is clarifying in nature and is done to make this recitation consistent with the recitation of "a second stream activated sludge process" in element (b) of claim 10. Thus, this amendment is not related to the patentability of claims 10 and 15, but merely serves to correct an informality resulting from the inadvertent omission of the word "stream" as indicated in claims 10 and 15.

The Examiner is hereby encouraged to telephone the undersigned should there be any questions or concerns regarding this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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